

# **EXHIBIT L**

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : CRIMINAL CASE NUMBER  
PLAINTIFF :  
:  
VERSUS : 18-CR-368-1  
:  
DAMILARE SONOIKI, :  
DEFENDANT :

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JULY 29, 2021  
COURTROOM 10A  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

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BEFORE THE HONORABLE GENE E.K. PRATTER, J.

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SENTENCING HEARING

APPEARANCES:

DAVID J. IGNALL, ESQUIRE  
EILEEN CASTILLA ZELEK, ESQUIRE  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS  
615 CHESTNUT STREET, SUITE 1250  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

COUNSEL FOR THE GOVERNMENT

LYNN GLIGOR, RMR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
ROOM 2609 U. S. COURTHOUSE  
601 MARKET STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106  
(856) 649-4774

PROCEEDINGS RECORDED BY STENOGRAPHY-COMPUTER,  
TRANSCRIPT PRODUCED BY COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION

1 I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY AS  
2 PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MOTION ABOUT YOU BEING PREPARED  
3 TO SUBSTANTIALLY ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT. YOU NOW HAVE AN  
4 OPPORTUNITY TO TELL ME THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT IT IS YOU  
5 WILL SAY AT A TRIAL IF A TRIAL IS NECESSARY AND IF YOU  
6 ARE CALLED AS A WITNESS.

7 ARE WE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE, EVERYBODY?

8 MR. IGNALL: YES, YOUR HONOR.

9 MR. WILSON: YES, YOUR HONOR.

10 THE DEFENDANT: YES, YOUR HONOR.

11 THE COURT: WHY DON'T YOU COME UP AND GET  
12 INTO THE WITNESS STAND THEN FOR THIS PURPOSE.

13 BY MR. WILSON:

14 Q. SIR -- HE HAS BEEN SWORN, RIGHT?

15 THE COURT: YES.

16 BY MR. WILSON:

17 Q. MR. SONOIKI, IN 2013, DID YOU START A POSITION  
18 AT GOLDMAN SACHS?

19 A. YES.

20 Q. AND HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

21 A. I HAD INTERNED THERE THE PREVIOUS TWO SUMMERS.

22 Q. IN 2013, THIS WAS AFTER YOUR COLLEGE CAREER WAS  
23 AT AN END, CORRECT?

24 A. CORRECT.

25 Q. AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT MONTH YOU STARTED

1       THERE?

2       A.       LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY.

3       Q.       OF 2013?

4       A.       YES.

5       Q.       AND WHAT WAS YOUR POSITION AT GOLDMAN SACHS?

6       A.       ANALYST.

7       Q.       AND JUST BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT YOUR DUTIES WERE  
8       AT GOLDMAN SACHS?

9       A.       DOING FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND PREPARING  
10       PRESENTATION? PREPARING FINANCIAL INFORMATION, YOU  
11       KNOW, EXCEL AND POWERPOINT PRIMARILY.

12       Q.       AND WOULD YOU WORK WITH A PARTICULAR PARTNER OR  
13       PARTNERS AT GOLDMAN SACHS?

14       A.       YES, IT'S VARIOUS ONES. NOT CONSISTENTLY THE  
15       SAME ONE, BUT DIFFERENT ONES.

16       Q.       OKAY. DID THERE COME A TIME AT THE END OF 2013  
17       THAT YOU MET MYCHAL KENDRICKS?

18       A.       YES.

19       Q.       HOW WAS IT THAT YOU MET HIM?

20       A.       WE MET AT A NEW YEAR'S EVE, I THINK. MET ON NEW  
21       YEAR'S EVE.

22       Q.       OKAY. AND WERE THERE -- WAS THERE MUTUAL  
23       ACQUAINTANCES OF YOURS AND HIS THAT WERE THERE THAT  
24       INTRODUCED YOU TO HIM?

25       A.       YES.

1 Q. DID YOU EXCHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION?

2 A. YES.

3 Q. DO YOU KNOW AT THAT TIME WHETHER MYCHAL  
4 KENDRICKS WAS MADE AWARE THAT YOU WORKED IN NEW YORK  
5 CITY AS A FINANCIAL ANALYST?

6 A. I AM NOT SURE, I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN, YES.

7 Q. OKAY. DID YOU -- WHEN DID YOU NEXT HAVE CONTACT  
8 WITH MYCHAL KENDRICKS AFTER THAT NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY IN  
9 2013?

10 A. WE TEXTED SPORADICALLY FROM MARCH OF 2014 UNTIL  
11 -- STARTING IN MARCH 2014 WE TEXTED SPORADICALLY AND  
12 THEN WE MET IN PERSON IN JUNE OF 2014.

13 Q. AND WHERE DID YOU MEET IN PERSON?

14 A. IN NEW YORK.

15 Q. WHERE -- WAS MYCHAL KENDRICKS LIVING IN NEW YORK  
16 OR DID HE COME TO NEW YORK TO MEET YOU?

17 A. HE CAME TO NEW YORK TO MEET ME.

18 Q. OKAY. AND THAT FIRST MEETING, WHAT HAPPENED  
19 DURING THAT FIRST MEETING? WERE YOU WITH HIM THE WHOLE  
20 DAY OR OVERNIGHT?

21 A. YEAH, I WAS WITH HIM THE -- WE MET -- HE CAME --  
22 HE TOOK A TRAIN TO NEW YORK FROM PHILADELPHIA, AND THEN  
23 WE MET AT THE TRAIN STATION. AND WE ARE OUTSIDE THE  
24 TRAIN STATION AND THEN WE WENT OUT MAYBE TO -- YOU KNOW,  
25 WE WENT OUT TO MAYBE A SOCIAL PLACE, AND THEN HE STAYED

1       THINGS I HAVE KIND OF LEARNED OVER THE YEARS IS THAT ON  
2       SOME LEVEL WE ARE ALL FAKING IT.

3       A.           RIGHT.

4       Q.           AND YOU LEARNED THAT LESSON BECAUSE YOU KNEW IN  
5       YOUR HEART OF HEARTS AND IN YOUR MIND THAT WHILE  
6       EVERYBODY ELSE THOUGHT YOU WERE SUCH A STAR, MAYBE TO  
7       YOU, MAYBE I WILL GO FROM WEATHER TO ASTRONOMY, THAT  
8       THERE ARE STARS AND THEN THERE ARE THINGS THAT SEEM TO  
9       BE STARS AND THEY FLAME OUT. I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THEY  
10      ARE, BUT THERE IS SOME ASTRONOMICAL WORD FOR THAT. AND  
11      THAT'S TRUE OF ALL OF US.

12     A.           RIGHT.

13     Q.           EVEN YOU.

14     A.           NO, I AGREE. AND I THINK THAT I HAVE LEARNED  
15     THAT, YOU KNOW, TRANSPARENCY IS IMPORTANT, YOU KNOW, AND  
16     I THINK AT THAT ALL OF THESE STAGES I HID THINGS. I HID  
17     THAT I HAD NOT GRADUATED. I HID THAT --

18     Q.           BY THE WAY, DID YOU EVER GO BACK AND GET A  
19     DEGREE?

20     A.           I AM IN THE PROCESS OF THAT NOW.

21     Q.           LIKE HOW ARE YOU IN THE PROCESS?

22     A.           I HAVE BEEN APPLYING TO CERTAIN -- YOU KNOW,  
23     MOREHOUSE, JUST A FEW PLACES WHERE I CAN GO REMOTELY.  
24     NOW THAT I HAVE SOME INCOME TO PAY FOR IT, TO TRY AND  
25     COMPLETE THAT.

1 Q. BECAUSE YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE MUCH. YOU SHOULD  
2 NOT HAVE MUCH, RIGHT?

3 A. YEAH, WELL --

4 Q. TO COMPLETE IT AND GET A DEGREE?

5 A. RIGHT. RIGHT. IT'S BEEN -- YEAH, IT'S BEEN  
6 SOMETHING THAT IS -- OR YEAH, TO GET AN UNDERGRAD OR TO  
7 GET A DEGREE. BUT --

8 Q. THEN YOU CAN ACTUALLY PUT ON A C.V. THAT YOU  
9 GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE.

10 A. RIGHT.

11 Q. RIGHT?

12 A. I AGREE. I AM JUST -- I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING --  
13 I PLANNED TO KIND OF READ THE STATEMENT, BUT I -- I FEEL  
14 LIKE I HAVE EVERYTHING THAT I -- ALL OF THE MISTAKES  
15 THAT I MADE, THE VERY STUPID THINGS THAT I DID, I HAVE,  
16 YOU KNOW, TAKEN -- FIRST OF ALL, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AS  
17 MUCH AS I CAN SAY OH, IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION,  
18 ANYONE ELSE -- THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO IN THAT SAME  
19 SITUATION WOULD HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING, YOU KNOW,  
20 WOULD NOT HAVE BROKEN THE LAW, WOULD HAVE SIMPLY  
21 TRANSFERRED THEIR CREDITS ELSEWHERE, WOULD HAVE NOT  
22 SPIRALED INTO SUCH FOOLISH BEHAVIOR. AND SO I JUST WANT  
23 TO SAY THAT THAT'S NOT AN EXCUSE. I UNDERSTAND THAT  
24 THAT WAS MY FAULT AND I AM NOT -- THAT DOES NOT, YOU  
25 KNOW -- HOWEVER MANY OFFERS I LOST, HOWEVER MANY DEGREES

1 I DIDN'T GET, THAT'S NOT AN EXCUSE FOR WHAT I DID. AND  
2 I WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT THAT, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT,  
3 YOU KNOW -- AND I KNOW NOW, EVEN GOING THROUGH THIS  
4 PROCESS, THAT THERE ARE ALWAYS OTHER OPTIONS. YOU CAN  
5 MOVE BACK HOME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN L.A. YOU CAN  
6 -- YOU DON'T HAVE TO WRITE FOR THE SIMPSONS, YOU KNOW,  
7 THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS.

8 AND SO I THINK THAT, YOU KNOW, IN THIS  
9 STORM, AS MY LAWYER HAS SAID, YOU KNOW, I HAVE TAKEN ALL  
10 THE THINGS FROM THE PAST STORMS THAT I DID WRONG, WHICH  
11 WAS HIDE AND BE -- YOU KNOW, PRETEND, PRETEND EVERYTHING  
12 WAS OKAY, NOT ASK FOR HELP FROM PEOPLE BECAUSE I JUST --  
13 I NEEDED THEM TO BELIEVE THAT I WAS THIS STAR, THAT  
14 EVERYTHING -- NOTHING WENT WRONG FOR ME, THAT EVERYTHING  
15 WAS JUST PERFECTLY FINE. AND I HAVE COME AND SAID LOOK,  
16 I WANT -- ON ONE LEVEL I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE,  
17 OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE THINGS ARE PROBABLY -- BUT I JUST  
18 SAID, HEY, LOOK, THINGS ARE VERY DIFFICULT. THE TWO  
19 JOBS THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE SEEN THAT I HAD, YOU KNOW,  
20 IN JANUARY I CALLED PEOPLE I KIND OF LOOKED UP TO THEM  
21 AND KIND OF SAID, HEY, I NEED HELP. I HAVE -- ASIDE  
22 FROM THOSE TWO MONTHS FROM THE SHADE ROOM FOR THAT IN  
23 LOS ANGELES, I HAD NOT REALLY WORKED SINCE. AND I  
24 ALWAYS THOUGHT BECAUSE PEOPLE IN ENTERTAINMENT WERE  
25 FRIENDLY AFTERWARDS A LITTLE BIT. I THOUGHT, I WILL --



1       THERE WILL BE ANOTHER OPEN DOOR AND THERE HASN'T.

2                       AND SO I HAD TO COME VERY MEEKLY AND VERY  
3       HUMBLY AND SAY LOOK, THINGS ARE BAD RIGHT NOW.   THINGS  
4       ARE NOT GOING WELL.   DO YOU HAVE -- IS THERE A COMPANY  
5       THAT YOU CAN -- AND SOME SAY, OH, THERE'S A COMPANY IN  
6       AUSTIN, THEY DO THIS AND THAT.   MAYBE YOU CAN HELP THEM  
7       CRUNCH NUMBERS.   OR THERE'S A COMPANY THAT HELPS FELONS  
8       FIND JOBS.   YOU CAN DO THAT.   SO I HAVE REALLY, REALLY  
9       LEARNED TO, YOU KNOW -- I HAVE BEEN HUMBLER.   I HAVE  
10      ALWAYS HAD --

11      Q.        SPEAKING OF THAT, I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER WHAT  
12      YOU WERE THINKING AS YOU LISTENED TO YOUR MOM AND YOUR  
13      DAD AND YOUR COUSIN AND YOUR UNCLE AND YOUR AUNT SPEAK,  
14      WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR HEAD?

15      A.        YOU SAW ME, I WAS CRYING.   I THINK A LOT OF  
16      SORROW.   I THINK THAT -- YOU KNOW, LIKE MY -- OBVIOUSLY,  
17      BREACHING THE TRUST OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS IS ILLEGAL,  
18      IS A CRIME, AND IT'S VERY SERIOUS.   BREACHING THE TRUST  
19      OF MY PARENTS, BREACHING THE TRUST OF PEOPLE WHO TOOK ME  
20      INTO THEIR HOME.   ALL OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN ME INTO  
21      THEIR HOMES.   THEY HAVE COOKED FOR ME, THEY HAVE BEEN  
22      THERE FOR ME THROUGHOUT ALL OF THESE YEARS.   THEY HAVE  
23      BEEN A TRIBE FOR ME AND THEY -- PEOPLE -- YOU KNOW, I  
24      FELT SORROW, I JUST FELT GRIEF.   I THOUGHT JUST BECAUSE  
25      MY -- I ALWAYS DREAMED OF THE DAY WHERE I COULD TELL MY